

--21. A navigation system according to claim 17, wherein said input means inputs area and said search means searches said register points existing within the area input by said input means.--

--22. A memory medium for a navigation system storing register point data for searching register points existing within a predetermined limit, wherein said register point data are divided into area or block and said register point data in each area or block are divided into a category and flags representing the presence or absence of said register point data are given to each category of each area or block.--

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--23. A memory medium for a navigation system storing register point data for searching register points existing within a predetermined limit, wherein said register point data are divided into a category and said register point data in each category are divided into an area or block and flags representing the presence or absence of register point data are given to each area or block of each category.--

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REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 11, 14 and 16-23 are pending. Claims 1, 3-7, 11 and 14 are amended. Claims 16-23 are added. Claims 8-10, 12, 13 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The specification is amended to address a minor informality found therein. No new matter is entered. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)) and claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

In items 2-8, page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 7-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Each of claims 1, 3 and 7 has been amended to address the indefiniteness cited. Claims 8-10 and 13 have been canceled rendering any rejection of them moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1, 3, 7-10 and 13 is respectfully requested.

In item 2, page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Mikame (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,920). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

To maintain a 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, a reference must teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Mikame does not do so.

Applicants' invention comprises a navigation system and memory medium for a navigation system in which input information is searched for register points according to register points within a predetermined limit based on a reference position input by an input means or according to flags representing the presence or absence of said register points, as recited in the various independent claims 1, 3, 14, 16, 17, 22 and 23. When searching register points existing within a predetermined limit on the basis of an input reference position, the search means can further search the register points existing within an input area, such as a country, state or city. The reference position may be, for example, a present vehicle position or a cursor position (specification, page 12, lines 26-27). Alternatively, or in addition thereto, register point data are divided into at least one of a category, area or block with flags representing the presence or absence of the register point data. The searching means therefore searches register points by referring to the flags. A flag "1" represents the presence of a register point data, whereas a flag "0" indicates the absence of a register point data in the category, area or block searched. As a result, searching time is reduced. None of the art applied teach, disclose or suggest the combination of features claimed.

Mikame discloses a map displaying apparatus 2 having a means for searching facilities within a predetermined area on the basis of a category of facilities input (step S701, Fig. 8). The search processing in Mikame therefore refers to a facilities data file stored in a storing device 115 to search the facilities within the facilities category (col. 14, lines 1-5, Fig. 8 step S702). Mikame therefore fails to teach, disclose or suggest the means for searching

facilities within a predetermined limit according to an area input based on a reference position as recited in claims 1, 3 and 14, from which claims 4-7 and 11 depend. Further, claims 8-10, 13 and 15 have been canceled rendering any rejection of them moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 3-11 and 13-15 is respectfully requested.

In item 7, page 4 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Mikame in view of Maekawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,508). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention is discussed above. Likewise, Mikame is discussed above. Maekawa et al. discloses a vehicular navigation system and memory medium that searches for register points within an area when a target name and an area have been input to a searching means (col. 6, lines 45-55 and Fig. 3). However, Maekawa et al. fail to teach, disclose or suggest searching register points existing within a predetermined limit around a reference position, which reference position may be, for example, a present vehicle position or a cursor position as discussed above with reference to the Applicants' invention. Further, any rejection of claim 12 is moot as a result of the cancellation thereof. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 12 is respectfully requested.

New claims 16-23 are distinguishable over the art applied for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features recited in the dependent claims thereof.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the claims presented in view of the remarks made herein patentably distinguish over the art applied and pose no 35 U.S.C. §112 issues. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-7, 11, 14 and 16-23 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachments:

Appendix  
Petition for Extension of Time  
Amendment Transmittal

Date: December 13, 2001

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE  
AUTHORIZATION  
Please grant any extension  
necessary for entry;  
Charge any fee due to our  
Deposit Account No. 15-0461